

XXX.—On a new Species of Flycatcher of the Genus
Hyliota. By Dr. G. HARTLAUB.

(Plate VIII.)

I PROPOSE to dedicate to Herr Amtsrath Nehr Korn, of Riddagshausen, a distinct new species of Flycatcher of the genus *Hyliota*, of which he has sent me an example for examination, and to call it

HYLIOTA NEHRKORNI, n. sp. (Plate VIII.)

Supra unicolor, chalybæo-nigra; subtus ochroleuca, pectore et epigastrio intensius tinctis, gula et abdomine pallidioribus, albidis; subalaribus nigris; subcaudalibus albis; remigibus totis nigris; rectricibus nigris, intermediis dorso concoloribus: rostro et pedibus nigris; vibrissis brevissimis. Long. tot. circa 122 mm., al. 77 mm., caud. 37 mm., tars. 17 mm.

Hab. Accra, West Africa (one adult specimen).

The general form of this little bird is quite that of a true *Hyliota*. The upper parts are glossy blue-black, with steel-blue reflections; the feathers of the rump are somewhat long and lax, greyish white, with steel-bluish ends. The quills are black. There is not the slightest trace of white markings on the wing. The tail-feathers are black, the middle ones glossed with steel-blue; the under wing-coverts black; the under tail-coverts white. The body beneath is ochraceous, deeper on the breast and epigastrium, pale and more whitish on the throat and abdomen. The bill and feet are black.

The differential peculiarity of this new species of *Hyliota* is the entire absence of white on the wing.

The known species of *Hyliota* are now, therefore, five in number:—

1. *H. flavigastra*, Swains.; Hartl. in Cab. J. f. O. 1883, p. 323.

Hab. Senegambia; Niger Valley; Djur and Kosanga countries in N.E. Africa; Langomeri (3° 30' N. lat.).

2. *H. violacea*, J. Verr.; Hartl. l. c. p. 327.

Hab. Gaboon.

3. *H. barbozæ*, Hartl. l. c. p. 329.

Hab. Benguela.

4. *H. nehrkorni*, Hartl.

Hab. Accra, Gold Coast.

5. *H. australis*, Shell.; Hartl. l. c. p. 331.

Hab. Umvuli River, S.E. Africa.

As regards this species, of which I have not yet examined specimens, and which is, as yet, known from a single example only, I may remark that it is apparently a less typical form.

The type specimen of our new species, *Hyliota nehrkorni*, from which the figure is taken, is in the splendid collection of Amts Rath Nehrkorn, of Riddagshausen, near Brunswick.

XXXI.—*Remarks on Lanius excubitor and its Allies.*

By H. E. DRESSER, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

AFTER an examination of the large series of Great Grey Shrikes in the British Museum and in the collection of Mr. Seebohm, as well as of twenty-one skins in my own collection, I quite agree with the late E. von Homeyer and Professor R. Collett that there is but one species of Great Grey Shrike in Europe, that the true *Lanius major* of Pallas does not occur here, and that the European specimens recorded as belonging to that species are merely individual varieties of *Lanius excubitor*. This view was also held by the late Dr. Taczanowski, who writes (Faun. Orn. Sib. Orient. p. 489):—"It appears to us that most of these birds found accidentally in Europe are but varieties of *Lanius excubitor* having the alar patch less developed, that is to say single."

Professor Bogdanoff separates these varieties from the Siberian form and refers them to a subspecies which he calls *Lanius borealis europæus*. But there is no doubt that this so-called subspecies occurs in the same localities where *Lanius excubitor* is found and freely interbreeds with that species, and that every gradation between the two forms is

